

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00359 201207Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

/073 W

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R 201050Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2050

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

UNCLAS DURBAN 0359

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, SF, MZ

SUBJ: FRELIMO CONSOLIDATING ITSELF ON BORDER WITH SOUTH AFRICA

REF: DURBAN 172

1. ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN OCTOBER 19 ISSUE OF SUNDAY TIMES, FRELIMO TROOPS HAVE WARNED TEMBE TRIBE, WHOSE TRADITIONAL TRIBAL AREA STRADDLES PRESENT MOTAMBIQUE-SOUTH AFRICA BORDER, THAT THEY MUST NOW CHOOSE EITHER TO LIVE IN MOZAMBIQUE OR SOUTH AFRICA. IN THE PAST TEMBES HAVE MOVED FREELY BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. (EARLIER THIS YEAR CHIEF GATSHA BUTHELEZI CHARGED FRELIMO SOLDIERS WERE ENCOURAGING TEMBES TO PRESS FOR ALTERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER SOUTHWARD; REFTEL).

2. IN SECOND MOVE, FRELIMO SOLDIERS HAVE TOLD NATAL PARKS BOARD (NPB) RANGERS TO CEASE PATROLING SECTION OF NORTHERN NATAL NDUMU GAME RESERVE CLAIMED BY MOZAMBIQUE. AREA CLAIMED BY MOZAMBIQUE IS APPROXIMATELY FIVE SQUARE KILOMETERS ADJACENT TO AND SOUTH OF THE USUTU RIVER. THE RIVER HAS, IN THE PAST, SERVED AS THE BORDER BUT ITS COURSE HAS

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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00359 201207Z

CHANGED--MOVING NORTHWARD--OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS.

DURING THE PORTUGUESE ADMINISTRATION OF MOZAMBIQUE, THE
NPB PATROLE
THIS AREA WITH THEIR CONSENT.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THESE TWO EVENTS PREFIGURE
ANY SERIOUS BORDER PROBLEMS BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTH
AFRICA. FRELIMO SOLIDERS HAVE REPORTEDLY BEEN FIRM, BUT
NEVERTHELESS POLITE.
FABER

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